

## OPINION 1749

*Epicrium* Wagler, 1828 and ICHTHYOPHIIIDAE Taylor, 1968 (Amphibia, Gymnophiona): conserved, and EPICRIIDAE Berlese, 1885 (Arachnida, Acari): conserved by the emendation of EPICRIIDAE Fitzinger, 1843 (Amphibia, Gymnophiona) to EPICRIUMIDAE

## Ruling

- (1) Under the plenary powers:
  - (a) the suppression in Opinion 1604 of the generic name *Epicrium* Wagler, 1828 is hereby revoked;
  - (b) it is hereby ruled that for the purposes of Article 29 the stem of the generic name *Epicrium* Wagler, 1828 is EPICRIUM-;
  - (c) it is hereby ruled that ICHTHYOPHIIIDAE Taylor, 1968 and other family-group names based on *Ichthyophis* Fitzinger, 1826 are to be given precedence over EPICRIUMIDAE Fitzinger, 1843 and other family-group names based on *Epicrium* Wagler, 1828 whenever their type genera are placed in the same family-group taxon.
- (2) *Caecilia hypocyana* Boie, 1827 is hereby designated as the type species of *Epicrium* Wagler, 1828.
- (3) It is hereby confirmed that the original spelling of the family-group name ICHTHYOPHIIIDAE Taylor, 1968 is correct.
- (4) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Generic Names in Zoology:
  - (a) *Epicrium* Wagler, 1828 (gender: neuter), type species by designation in (2) above *Caecilia hypocyana* Boie, 1827 (with the deletion of *Epicrium* from the Official Index of Rejected and Invalid Generic Names in Zoology);
  - (b) *Epicrius* Canestrini & Fanzago, 1877 (gender: masculine), type species by monotypy *Epicrius geometricus* Canestrini & Fanzago, 1877.
- (5) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Specific Names in Zoology:
  - (a) *hypocyana* Boie, 1827, as published in the binomen *Caecilia hypocyana* (specific name of the type species of *Epicrium* Wagler, 1828);
  - (b) *geometricus* Canestrini & Fanzago, 1877, as published in the binomen *Epicrius geometricus* (specific name of the type species of *Epicrius* Canestrini & Fanzago, 1877).
- (6) To the entry for ICHTHYOPHIIIDAE Taylor, 1968 on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology (spelling confirmed in (3) above) is hereby added the endorsement that it and other family-group names based on *Ichthyophis* Fitzinger, 1826 are to be given precedence over EPICRIUMIDAE Fitzinger, 1843, type genus *Epicrium* Wagler, 1828, and other family-group names based on *Epicrium* whenever their type genera are placed in the same family-group taxon.
- (7) The following names are hereby placed on the Official List of Family-Group Names in Zoology:
  - (a) EPICRIUMIDAE Fitzinger, 1843, type genus *Epicrium* Wagler, 1828 (spelling emended in (1)(b) above), with the endorsement that it and other family-group names based on *Epicrium* are not to be given priority over

ICHTHYOPHIIDAE Taylor, 1968 and other family-group names based on *Ichthyophis* Fitzinger, 1826 whenever their type genera are placed in the same family-group taxon;

(b) EPICRIIDAE Berlese, 1885 (type genus *Epicrius* Canestrini & Fanzago, 1877).

(8) The entry for EPICRIIDAE Fitzinger, 1843 on the Official Index of Family-Group Names in Zoology is hereby emended to record the emendation of its spelling to EPICRIUMIDAE in (1)(b) above.

### History of Case 2616

The case was submitted in its original form by Drs Mark Wilkinson and Ronald A. Nussbaum (*Museum of Zoology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.S.A.*) and published in BZN 45: 207–209 (September 1988). This led to Opinion 1604 (June 1990; BZN 47: 166–167). The subsequent history of the case was summarized in BZN 48: 154–155 (June 1991) and 49: 153–154 (June 1992).

As noted in BZN 49: 153, in Opinion 1604 the caecilian generic name *Epicrium* Wagler, 1828, which was mistakenly believed to be a replacement for *Ichthyophis* Fitzinger, 1826, was suppressed and placed on the Official Index. This was in order to dispose of the senior but unused family-group name EPICRIIDAE Fitzinger, 1843 and so conserve the established name ICHTHYOPHIIDAE Taylor, 1968. However, Prof A. Dubois (*Muséum National d'Histoire Naturelle, Paris*) subsequently pointed out (BZN 48: 152–154) that *Epicrium* was an available nominal genus, with its own type species, which might be required for future use. It was therefore proposed (BZN 48: 155) that the suppression of *Epicrium* should be revoked, and also that ICHTHYOPHIIDAE should be given precedence over EPICRIIDAE Fitzinger. This latter action was in accord with the intentions of the original authors and was supported by Prof H.M. Smith (*University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, U.S.A.*) in BZN 46: 134 and 48: 335–336, although not originally by Dubois (BZN 48: 152–154).

The name EPICRIIDAE Fitzinger, 1843 is a senior homonym of EPICRIIDAE Berlese, 1855, based on *Epicrius* Canestrini & Fanzago, 1877 and in use for a family of mites (see BZN 47: 166 and 49: 153, para. 2). Fitzinger's name was unlikely to be used at family level (see comment by Smith, BZN 48: 335) and therefore it was proposed (BZN 49: 154) that this name should be emended to EPICRIUMIDAE, so removing the homonymy. On BZN 49: 153 it was reported (para. 1) that because of the homonymy Prof Dubois concluded that EPICRIIDAE Fitzinger should be rejected (the last sentence of that paragraph should be emended to read 'Prof Dubois has since suggested that EPICRIIDAE Fitzinger should be rejected because it has a junior homonym in use').

The Executive Secretary of the Commission reported on BZN 49: 153 (para. 3) that *Epicrium* was based on a single biological species with two available specific names: *hypocyana* Boie, 1827 and *hasseltii* Wagler, 1828. To settle the question of the nominal type species it was proposed that the Commission designate *Caecilia hypocyana* Boie, 1827. It was also proposed (para. 4) that ICHTHYOPHIIDAE be confirmed as the correct original spelling.

### Decision of the Commission

On 1 March 1993 the members of the Commission were invited to vote on the proposals published in BZN 48: 155 (June 1991) and supplemented on 49: 154 (June 1992). At the close of the voting period on 1 June 1993 the votes were as follows:

Affirmative votes — 25: Bayer, Bock, Bouchet (part), Cocks, Cogger, Corliss, Dupuis (part), Hahn, Halvorsen, Heppell, Holthuis, Kabata, Kraus, Lehtinen (part), Macpherson, Mahnert, Martins de Souza, Minelli, Nielsen, Nye, Schuster, Štys, Thompson, Trjapitzin, Willink

Negative votes — 1: Savage.

No votes were received from Starobogatov and Uéno.

Ride was on leave of absence.

Bouchet commented: 'I see no reason why the Principle of Priority should not apply to ICHTHYOPHIIIDAE Taylor, 1968 and EPICRIIDAE Fitzinger, 1843. None can seriously claim that synonymization of a name introduced as recently as 1968 can destabilize nomenclature'. He also objected to the 'barbaric' spelling EPICRIUMIDAE, as did Dupuis. Lehtinen commented that still unpublished revisional work had shown that *Gamasus mollis* Kramer, 1876 was not a synonym of *E. geometricus* Canestrini & Fanzago, 1877; Kramer's name could therefore not be treated as a senior subjective synonym of the type species of *Epicrius* (cf. BZN 49: 153, 154). Savage considered that there was no reason to 'create' the family-group name EPICRIUMIDAE.

### Original references

The following are the original references to the names placed on Official Lists by the ruling given in the present Opinion:

EPICRIIDAE Berlese, 1885, *Bollettino della Società Entomologica Italiana*, 17: 129.

*Epicrium* Wagler, 1828, *Isis* (von Oken), 21(7): col. 742.

*Epicrius* Canestrini & Fanzago, 1877, *Atti del Reale Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti*, (5)4(1): 131.

EPICRIUMIDAE Fitzinger, 1843, *Systema reptilium*. Fasciculus primus (Amblyglossae), p. 34.

*geometricus*, *Epicrius*, Canestrini & Fanzago, 1877, *Atti del Reale Istituto Veneto di Scienze, Lettere ed Arti*, (5)4(1): 131.

*hypocyana*, *Caecilia*, Boie, 1827, *Isis* (von Oken), 20: col. 565.

ICHTHYOPHIIIDAE Taylor, 1968, *The caecilians of the world: a taxonomic review*, p. 46.